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Dear Emergency Department Director:

I am writing to urge you to participate in the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. This survey is part of an ongoing project sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics to gather data about medical care provided in outpatient and emergency facilities. The information gathered is used by medical educators, researchers, policy makers and health administrators to assess health needs and resources, and for planning and organizing health services.

The American College of Emergency Physicians has long recognized the need for national data describing emergency department visits and has supported the development of this survey. Data from the most recent survey clearly shows the rise in the number of visits to emergency departments (EDs) across the country while the number of hospital EDs has declined.

As EDs experience increasing demands on their resources, this survey will provide vital data for researchers, planners, and decision makers addressing these critical issues facing emergency medicine. I urge you to complete this survey.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Suter".

Robert E. Suter, DO, MHA, FACEP  
President